

# Measure Up

Spring 2010

Assessment news for twelfth-grade teachers



## ***Did you know?***

- **NAEP 2011 in 12th grade will include assessments in economics and in writing.**
- **NAEP 2009 12th-grade results for mathematics, reading, and science will be released later this year.**
- **NAEP 2009 12th-grade state-level results for reading and mathematics will be released this year for 11 pilot states.**

## **Thank You!**

Thank you to all schools that participated in the NAEP 2010 assessment and helped to make it a success. NAEP 2010 included assessments in civics, geography, and U.S. history. It also included a mathematics special study at grades 4 and 8, and a writing computer-based pilot at grades 8 and 12.

The NAEP 2010 grade 12 assessment was offered to a sample of 31,500 public school students at 880 different schools.

## **NAEP 2011: Writing**

In 2011, grade 12 students will take the NAEP writing computer-based assessment. The writing assessment is rooted in current technology, and is computer-based – not just computer-delivered. This is not a paper and pencil

based test reformatted for a computer; therefore, no paper and pencil based version will be available for grade 12. The assessment is designed to reflect the way today's students compose and are expected to compose: using a computer.

## **NAEP 2011: Economics**

In 2011, some grade 12 students will take the NAEP economics pilot to prepare for the 2012 assessment.

According to the NAEP framework, economic literacy is essential for individuals to function effectively in their own personal lives, as participants in an

increasingly connected world economy, and as citizens. It is difficult to function as a productive member of society – as a worker, a saver, an investor, a consumer, or an active citizen – without some knowledge of economic concepts and ideas and an ability to apply basic economic analysis to solve everyday problems.



## NAEP 2011: Writing

### Facts About NAEP Writing Computer-Based Assessment

A writing computer-based assessment will be offered to students at grade 12 in schools sampled for NAEP 2011.

Schools will need to provide a room with flat desks or tables.

NAEP brings in all equipment, including the following:

- Individual laptops for each student
- Mice and mouse pads
- Earbuds for all students
- Power strips and tape to secure electrical cords
- Equipment for secure NAEP-specific wireless network

Computer-based assessments are provided on NAEP laptop computers.

- Each student is assigned an individual laptop.
- A tutorial will introduce students to the assessment application and tools.
- Some writing tasks will include stimulus materials, including color photographs, newspaper articles, poems, and multimedia stimuli such as short videos and audio.
- Students will be given a brochure with ideas for planning and reviewing their writing. Students also will be given a pencil and paper to plan their writing, or they can plan their writing on the computer. Only responses entered into the computer will be scored.

Some universal design features and optional settings are included as follows:

- Earbuds for all students and a Speak function for each computer that can read aloud all or selected portions of the directions, tasks, and stimulus material
- Font size adjustable up to 48 point (letters about 2/3 inch tall)
- Yellow highlighter tool for marking text in writing task
- Countdown timer to track time during writing tasks and background questions, with option of hiding timer
- Spell check and other common word processing tools
- A Help Button to assist the student with the use of these and other features

To access the writing framework, please visit <http://www.nagb.org> and select "Publications."

**Students will respond to text, video, or animated prompts on the computer and listen to audio prompts via earbuds, which will be provided.**

**The assessment questions are designed to measure students' ability to persuade, to explain, or to convey experience.**

## Sample Economics Items

Sample student responses to these and other NAEP items can be found by visiting the NAEP Questions Tool at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrlsx>.

1. Which of the following best describes the primary role of an economic system?

- A. To respond to market failure
- B. To address equity concerns to improve fairness
- ★ C. To determine the allocation of limited resources
- D. To protect domestic producers from foreign competition

2. Mary and Leticia are employed at a local company. Leticia has decided to put part of her pay each week in a retirement savings program. Mary has decided not to and spends the money instead.

Compare the short-term economic effects of these decisions on Mary and Leticia.

Short term Mary is able to buy more things that she needs at the time and Leticia will have to wait.

Compare the long-term economic effects of these decisions on Mary and Leticia.

Unlike Mary, Leticia will have money in her retirement and will not have to scramble for some at the last moment.

What factors might explain why Mary's and Leticia's choices were different?

Mary perhaps needed the money now for debt or just things she needed soon and Leticia didn't have the absolute need.



**The economics assessment measures and will report results for three content areas: the market economy, the national economy, and the international economy**

**Within each of the content areas, questions are designed to assess economics in three cognitive categories: knowing, applying, and reasoning.**

**NAEP measured the economics knowledge and skills of students in grade 12 for the first time in 2006.**

## What is the Nation's Report Card?

The Nation's Report Card informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

For over three decades, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

This publication was prepared for the National Assessment of Educational Progress by Westat under contract (ED-07-CO-0083) to the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

29616.0310.8540540301

### If you want to...

### Visit...

<b>Learn</b> more about NAEP results	The Nation's Report Card at <a href="http://nationsreportcard.gov">http://nationsreportcard.gov</a>
<b>View</b> NAEP data for a particular state or contact your NAEP State Coordinator	The National Center for Education Statistics at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states</a>
<b>Access</b> specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or student groups	The NAEP Data Explorer at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata</a>
<b>Find</b> information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions	The NAEP Questions Tool at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmlsx">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmlsx</a>
<b>Download</b> a Sample Questions Booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments	The National Center for Education Statistics at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp</a>
<b>Learn</b> more about NAEP frameworks and how policy is drafted for each NAEP assessment	The National Assessment Governing Board at <a href="http://www.nagb.org">http://www.nagb.org</a>
<b>Offer</b> a comment or suggestion on NAEP	The National Center for Education Statistics mailbox at <a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/contactus.asp</a>